

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
March 7, 2017
9:21 a.m.

Members Present:

Louis Green, Chair
Brandon Ahmasuk
Fred Eningowuk
Theodore Katcheak
Ronald Kirk
Leland Oyoumick
Charles Saccheus
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312; sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3

(Nome, Alaska - 3/7/2017)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good morning, folks.

8

I think we'll call this meeting back to order. It's
9 about 9:21.

10

11

MS. DEATHERAGE: Negative 30.

12

13

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Negative 30.

14

Everybody got their bunny boots on today?

15

16

(Laughter)

17

18

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyway, we're going to

19

take up with non-agenda items with the public if
20 there's anybody on the phone.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any tribes on the

25

phone.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

CHAIRMAN GREEN: ANCSA corporations

30

make comments.

31

32

(No comments)

33

34

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none on the

35

phone. Anybody in the room.

36

37

(No comments)

38

39

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't see anybody

40

raising their hand. We'll move forward on that and
41 move into calling Megan up on 17-01. Charlie, you
42 better get some coffee.

43

44

(Laughter)

45

46

MS. KLOSTERMAN: Good morning, Mr.

47

Chair. Members of the Council. Again, for the record,
48 my name is Megan Klosterman and I am a wildlife
49 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

50

1 This morning I have two analyses to go
2 over with the Council. Both are related to the Federal
3 lands closures for moose in Unit 22A. The Council will
4 need to take action on each item separately, but those
5 actions will need to be coordinated so they do not
6 contradict each other.

7
8 The first is a review of a moose
9 closure already in place in Unit 22A and the other is a
10 special action analysis for moose in 22A. If the Chair
11 agrees, I think it would be most productive to present
12 information from both analyses prior to the Council's
13 discussion.

14
15 I will start with the closure review,
16 which is Wildlife Closure Review 15-09 for moose in
17 Unit 22A and can be found on Page 22 of the Council
18 meeting materials.

19
20 This is simply a review of the Federal
21 lands closures that exist for moose in Unit 22A. OSM
22 reviews these closures every three years to ensure that
23 Federal lands don't remain unnecessarily closed. If
24 the Council feels the closures are no longer warranted,
25 it will need to submit a proposal to lift or modify the
26 closures.

27
28 There are three areas for moose in Unit
29 22A and Federal public lands closures exist in all
30 three areas. In the North Unit of 22A, Federal public
31 lands are closed to moose harvest except by residents
32 of Unit 22A. In Central Unit 22A, Federal public lands
33 are closed to moose harvest except by residents of
34 Unalakleet. In Unit 22A remainder, Federal public
35 lands are closed to moose harvest except by residents
36 of Unit 22A.

37
38 A little bit of biology. In Unit 22,
39 moose surveys are limited to selected drainages. As a
40 result, population estimates exist for Central Unit 22A
41 but not for the Northern or Southern, which is the
42 remainder hunt areas. In 2012, the population estimate
43 in the Central hunt area was 545 moose, which is
44 approaching the State's management goal of 600 to 800
45 moose. However, the moose density at 0.23 moose per
46 square mile is still low compared to other areas in
47 Alaska.

48
49 A survey to update population estimates
50

1 is scheduled for this spring. A composition survey was
2 conducted in the Central Unit 22A hunt area in late
3 2016. Final results of this survey are pending, but
4 preliminary results suggest that bull:cow ratios remain
5 high and population density remains above the densities
6 observed during the early 2000s.

7
8 Between 2005 and 2015 an average of 24
9 moose were harvested annually in Unit 22A. During that
10 time 73 percent of the harvest was by local users,
11 which is defined as residents of Unit 22A. However, in
12 the past several years, non-local harvest has increased
13 while local harvest has remained relatively stable.
14 You can see some information about that on Table 3 of
15 the closure review.

16
17 It's worth noting that local reporting
18 in the Central hunt area is believed to be good given
19 the requirement for a registration permit. However,
20 under-reporting is likely in the other two hunt areas.

21
22 For the closure review, the OSM
23 conclusion is to maintain the status quo. The 2012
24 surveys indicate that the Unit 22A moose population has
25 grown but remains at a low density. However, given the
26 lack of recent survey data, the current status is
27 unknown. In addition, harvest has increased in recent
28 years, particularly among non-local users. As a
29 result, retaining the closures to non-local users is
30 the most conservative approach and will ensure the
31 continuation of subsistence use until additional
32 information becomes available.

33
34
35 Next, I will present the Wildlife
36 Special Action Request 17-01 also for moose in Unit
37 22A, which can be found in the supplemental materials
38 in your meeting materials binder.

39
40 The proponent, Lance Kronberger of
41 Eagle River, requests that the Federal lands closure in
42 the Unit 22A remainder moose hunt area, which is the
43 southernmost hunt area, be rescinded from September 1st
44 through September 30th, 2017, to coincide with the
45 State's non-resident moose season.

46
47 This analysis is very similar to the
48 analysis I just went over. The differences are that,
49 one, it applies only to the southernmost hunt area in
50

1 Unit 22A and, two, it applies only to September 1st
2 through September 30th of 2017.

3
4 In addition, the proponent suggests
5 that the moose densities in this area are influenced by
6 Unit 18 moose population. As a result, this analysis
7 includes information on the moose populations in
8 adjacent hunt areas. You guys can see the map on Page
9 3 of the analysis.

10
11 As mentioned earlier, moose population
12 in Unit 22A has grown since the early 2000s when
13 densities were at their lowest, but they do remain
14 below 0.25 moose per square mile. In Unit 21E to the
15 east, the moose density has been relatively stable at
16 about one moose per square mile. Although moose
17 dispersal may occur between Units 21 and 22, there's no
18 expectation that dispersal is occurring above
19 historical averages and there's no evidence to suggest
20 that this population is contributing to growth of the
21 Unit 22A population.

22
23 In Unit 18, which has experienced
24 significant moose population growth in recent years,
25 moose densities are 2.8 moose per square mile along the
26 Lower Yukon and 2 moose per square mile in the
27 Andreafsky survey area. It is plausible that the
28 recent growth of the Unit 18 population has influenced
29 moose densities in Unit 22. However, it is unknown if
30 or to what degree this has occurred.

31
32 As mentioned earlier, moose harvest in
33 Unit 22A has historically been dominated by local
34 users, but increasingly harvest is attributable to non-
35 local users. This is especially true in the Unit 22A
36 remainder hunt area where locals have been responsible
37 for 25 percent or less of the harvest in each of the
38 past three years. You can see Figure 2 on Page 10 of
39 the analysis for more information on that.

40
41 Again, it's worth noting that local
42 harvest is expected to be under-reported in this area
43 and harvest rates don't necessarily reflect the
44 importance of this resource to local users.

45
46 If this special action is approved,
47 Federal public lands in Unit 22A remainder hunt area
48 will be open to all users September 1st through
49 September 30th, 2017. It is unknown what impact this
50

1 will have on the moose population in the area or on
2 local subsistence users.

3
4 If approved, this request would
5 primarily benefit nonresident hunters and guides who
6 would be able to hunt on Federal public lands for the
7 entire 30-day nonresident season and who report the
8 most harvest in the area. It would also benefit
9 non-local resident hunters who would also be able to
10 hunt on Federal public lands during the month of
11 September.

12
13 However, non-local residents who wish
14 to hunt the August 1st through August 31st or January
15 1st through January 31st as allowed under State
16 regulation would continue to be restricted to State
17 lands during those periods, which could result in
18 confusion.

19
20 It's worth noting that the Board may
21 find this request is not time sensitive and in that
22 case the request could be deferred and considered
23 during the upcoming regulatory cycle when we might have
24 more recent survey data to include in our analysis.

25
26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 oppose Wildlife Special Action 17-01 due to a lack of
28 evidence that the population continues to grow.
29 Results from the 2016 composition survey and upcoming
30 2017 abundance survey will be useful in the continued
31 evaluation of the population. In addition, input from
32 the Council and public may provide insight into
33 localized moose dynamics and might assist the board in
34 their decision.

35
36 We did have a public hearing last night
37 to hear comments from the public, but we had no
38 comments brought up at that meeting. We'll incorporate
39 any comments that this Council may have into the
40 analysis before we finalize our conclusion and send it
41 to the Board, but at this point our preliminary
42 conclusion is to oppose this request.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any questions from
47 council, comments. Oh, he's getting ready to do
48 something here. I don't know. You're making me
49 nervous, Bill.

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Charlie been talking
4 to you again?

5
6 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Ron. There you
9 are. Go ahead.

10
11 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I have a question on
12 the reports she just gave. How do you get the figures
13 for non-local residents in remainder of Unit 22A and
14 the figure from local residents? Because we have a
15 moose population in Unit 18 that worked their
16 way to remainder of 22A in our area. My question is
17 how do you come up with this figure of non-local
18 residents.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron, she'll speak to
21 that. Thank you.

22
23 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Through the Chair.
24 All of the harvest data that we got for this analysis
25 was actually taken from the Alaska Department of Fish
26 and Game's website and from personal communication with
27 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Bill can
28 actually provide more information about that population
29 here in a few minutes.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Megan.

34
35 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I have one more
36 for her if that's okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're on. I was just
39 going to ask if you had any more.

40
41 Thank you, Ron.

42
43 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I have another
44 question for you. If we were to try to extend our
45 moose harvest from December and ending of January to
46 ending of March, do we have to put in a proposal to
47 extend that?

48
49 Because with this climate change it's
50

1 pretty hard to harvest -- go do our subsistence harvest
2 in our area because we have drainages that we have to
3 cross and there's no way to cross them when the ice is
4 thin. We can't be harvesting our moose during those
5 times when it's open.
6

7 I'm wondering how can we extend it from
8 January 31st -- from December 1 to -- instead of ending
9 it January 31st, open it from December 1 to March 31st.
10 That's my question.
11

12 Because it's pretty hard for us to
13 harvest especially with this climate change. We had
14 open water right into ending of December and beginning
15 of January all the way down the coast. Everybody has
16 been aware of that through the whole region and ice was
17 pretty thin. So it's finally think now and it's closed
18 to us. That's my concern.
19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
23

24 Megan.
25

26 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Through the Chair.
27 Yes, that is definitely something that the Council can
28 turn a proposal in for for this wildlife regulatory
29 season.
30

31 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I have a
32 comment.
33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.
35

36 MR. KATCHEAK: I would like to give you
37 a little history about the past moose activity and
38 moose hunts or moose population. It's been taken
39 almost 30, 40 years to get this far where our moose are
40 finally coming around. Like Ron said, we
41 have problems going out to harvest moose because of our
42 weather and ice condition.
43

44 I've always thought that -- it took us
45 time, like back in the '80s, '70s or late '70s and
46 '80s, our moose population we were only allowed to
47 harvest so much, like very few, and the moose that we
48 harvested were like five, maybe six a year for the
49 whole village. And St. Michael, being our neighbor,
50

1 they're going through the same problems that we go
2 through.

3
4 This action I think would harm our way
5 to go out and harvest
6 because they have planes and boats and everything else
7 and we
8 only have our feet walking across the ice and trying to
9 go up to the hills to harvest. So if I had to go on to
10 accept this
11 modification, I would have to pray that maybe the guy
12 will give me moose.

13
14 So it's a very hard subject to talk
15 about right now for me because it's taken this long for
16 the population to grow and now we have moose and now
17 they want to hunt the moose. So I would say that I
18 would like to continue as status quo and we have our
19 villages and local people governing the game if we can
20 and we often do.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted, for
25 your comment.

26
27 Megan.

28
29 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Ted.
30 Through the Chair, I just want to clarify for the moose
31 closure maintaining the status quo means to keep it
32 closed to non-Federally qualified users on Federal
33 public lands. So that would keep non-Federally
34 qualified users from hunting moose on Federal public
35 lands in Unit 22A if we maintain the status quo.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any further
40 comments for Megan on
41 this one proposal from Council.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the phone.
46 I don't know if Fred is on.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: He must not be. I
2 think we can just go ahead and move forward on that
3 with your next report there. Oh, Bill. Bill, you want
4 to enlighten us with some numbers or you've got to
5 bring something up.

6
7 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair. If you wanted to, we
8 could move into some of the updated biological
9 information for the area.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

12
13 MR. DUNKER: Okay. So, as I alluded to
14 yesterday, we got down to the central portion of Unit
15 22A and conducted a spring GSPE moose survey. We were
16 at it up until about Friday of last week. Wrapped
17 things up and we were able to run the analysis and come
18 up with an estimate for moose abundance in the central
19 portion of Unit 22A.

20
21 Based on what we observed, the current
22 estimate for the central portion of Unit 22A is 840
23 moose plus or minus 11 percent. It was a really good
24 survey. We had a good crew put together down there and
25 we were able to get a relatively precise estimate of
26 moose abundance.

27
28 Recruitment for the population is
29 estimated at 12 percent, which is not too bad. It's
30 not phenomenal recruitment for a moose population.
31 Basically anything over 14 is probably a more
32 comfortable recruitment rate for a moose population,
33 but it's still adequate.

34
35 So when we look at the current estimate
36 compared to 2012, it indicates that the population has
37 continued to grow roughly 9 percent annually. As it
38 stands right now, it's at a current density estimate of
39 .35 moose per square mile. This is an increase from
40 the density estimate in 2012 of .23 moose per square
41 mile.

42
43 This past fall, as Megan mentioned, we
44 got out and did a fall composition survey in the same
45 survey area. That was completed in the tail end of
46 November, early December. We observed a total of 250
47 moose, which is usually our standard for these types of
48 surveys. We shoot for roughly 30 percent of a most
49 recent population estimate. We exceeded that sample

50

1 size objective based on the 2012. We only look at it
2 compared to what moose abundance probably was in the
3 area when we were doing the survey. We still managed
4 to meet that sampling objective, so we feel pretty
5 confident about the results of that survey.

6
7 The last time that there was a
8 composition survey completed in that area was in 2009.
9 At that time it was roughly 50 bulls per 100 cows. As
10 of last fall, the bull:cow ratio was on the order of
11 124 bulls per 100 cows. When we talk with other
12 biologists throughout the state, that kind of comes
13 across as somewhat of a nonsensical estimate. There
14 were some concerns that we had missed a large portion
15 of the cows in the area, but upon further investigation
16 we realized we covered all the available habitat.

17
18 We often try and allocate our effort
19 evenly throughout all the habitat on the landscape so
20 as not to bias the results of the survey by focusing on
21 areas where we have a large number of bulls versus the
22 riparian corridors where we're more likely to find cows
23 with calves or single cows and things like that.

24
25 Again, we feel pretty good about the
26 estimate. What it does bring to light is perhaps the
27 influence of local harvest patterns and potentially
28 moose movement. Moose in the fall time post rut they
29 often occupy the portions of the headwaters of some of
30 the smaller tributaries along those drainages and
31 things.

32
33 So when we look at a map of that area,
34 you know, the headwaters of places like the north fork
35 of the Unalakleet or the North River, those kind of
36 butt right up against some of the drainages coming up
37 from the Yukon. So there may be some mixing in that
38 area and may be influencing -- so that movement may be
39 influencing these results to some degree.

40
41 It's certainly raised some questions
42 about the influence of moose movement in the area and
43 it's something we'd like to investigate further in the
44 future here.

45
46 But, collectively, you know, when we
47 look at the abundance estimate that we got last week
48 and the comp survey results from last fall, generally
49 speaking the population has continued to grow and
50

1 bull:cow ratios in the area more than likely are quite
2 high.

3
4 I guess that's pretty much the latest
5 and greatest in terms of biological information for the
6 area. We've historically used these estimates from the
7 central portion of the Unit 22A to shed light on what
8 may be taking place in other portions of the unit.

9
10 Assuming that we've experienced growth
11 in the southern portion and northern portion, we
12 estimate based on the density estimates from this most
13 recent survey a total population of 645 moose in the
14 northern portion and a total of 558 moose in the
15 southern portion.

16
17 I guess I'd kind of throw it back to
18 you guys if you have any particular questions and we
19 can maybe discuss this further.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill.

22
23 Brandon.

24
25 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Thanks, Bill, for the information. Maybe I missed it.
27 If it were to open, is there going to be some kind of
28 quota system in place or is it just going to be open
29 for the non-Federally qualified subsistence users?

30
31 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Through the Chair. If
32 this was opened, the Council would have to turn in a
33 proposal to open the area and that would be up to
34 whatever you would put in that proposal. So you could
35 propose to modify the closure to put quotas in place.

36
37 Well, let me take that back a little
38 bit. We can't really tell the non-Federally qualified
39 users necessarily how many they can take according to
40 State regulations. There are some loopholes that we
41 can go through in order to maybe make the closure -- to
42 just modify the closure. So maybe not open it all the
43 way. Say we could open it for a month or so if we
44 needed to.

45
46 So there are ways to go about just
47 modifying the closure that would still limit non-
48 Federally qualified users take, but would still open it
49 somewhat. So that would be up to the Council to put
50

1 together a proposal and figure out what it was that you
2 would want to do for that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. AHMASUK: Thanks for that. That
7 wasn't me necessarily supporting. That was just, I
8 guess, playing devil's advocate because the question
9 might get asked later.

10

11 So thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brandon.

14

15 Any other Council questions or
16 comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On the phone.

21

22 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk,
23 Stebbins.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

26

27 MR. KIRK: This is Ron. I'm one of the
28 Fed board members there. My concern is if it was to
29 open the remainder of Unit 22 or actually for the whole
30 unit of 22A and remainder, would we be
31 able to, like Brandon say, put a limit on it to open it
32 for only one month for non-Federal users?

33

34 Because if we open it, like right now
35 it's open from December 1st to January 31st, if we left
36 it like that and left it open for non-Federal users,
37 what I'm concerned about is we'd be losing our moose.
38 It will be depleting and would be harder for us
39 villages to harvest our moose to put food on our tables
40 through the whole area of Unit 22A.

41

42 So I'm wondering if we could put a
43 limit on the month. Leave it open only for a month for
44 non-Federal users. That's my concern.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

49

50

1 Megan.

2
3 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you. Through
4 the Chair. Yes, for the closure review the Council has
5 the options of maintaining the status quo, which would
6 take no action or you can modify the closure, which
7 like you just mentioned you could say just open it for
8 a month or a few weeks or whatever you would deem
9 appropriate in your proposal or you could choose to
10 eliminate the closure or you could make any other
11 recommendation that you would see fit.

12
13 Any of those options would take a
14 proposal for this wildlife regulatory cycle. So those
15 are all options that you have available and you would
16 just need to write up a proposal from the Council for
17 whatever decision you would deem worthwhile.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Megan.

20
21 Ted.

22
23 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. What I would
24 like to see is -- or my question is do we have to
25 modify -- if we decide not to take action to modify the
26 extension from December or January or December to
27 March, do we need to make a modification on the present
28 regulation? I don't know if you understand. The
29 regulation that we are using we would like to see it
30 modified to extend that opening from December to March
31 and how do we do that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got an answer for
34 that?

35
36 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yep. So thank you.
37 Through the Chair. So what you can do is you can --
38 for the closure review you can, like I said, do nothing
39 and the closure stays closed or you can turn in a
40 proposal to modify that closure.

41
42 For your other question, if you want to
43 lengthen the Federal regulatory year or regulatory
44 season for that area, then you can turn in a separate
45 proposal to do that as well. So that would be a
46 separate proposal from the Council.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You got your
49 answer there, Ted. Thank you, Megan, for explaining
50

1 that again.

2

3 Are there any other comments or
4 concerns by Council on the phone.

5

6 MR. KIRK: Just one, Mr. Chair. I would
7 like our board to keep Unit 22A limited to non-Federal
8 users because that's going to curb our harvesting
9 season of our moose in 22A. That's my concern. I'd
10 like to put a limit on non-Federal users, like maybe
11 open it for a couple weeks and close it after that.

12

13 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Is
18 there any -- we're going to have public comments here
19 after a bit. I'm sorry?

20

21 MR. LEAN: I have another appointment
22 to go to.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we can allow
25 for you to come up, Charlie. That's fine.

26

27 MR. LEAN: My name is Charlie Lean.
28 I'm the chair of the Northern Norton Sound Advisory
29 Committee and roughly half of your Council are members
30 also, so I don't know that I really represent that body
31 as well as they might. But I did have a comment, kind
32 of a question. Since I'm no longer a paid biologist I
33 can take things a little further than the people who
34 have professional limits on their ability.

35

36 The bull:cow ratio that Bill mentioned
37 being very high with bulls and relatively low with cows
38 has struck a note in my mind. The studies that I'm
39 aware of for moose, the bulls are far more likely to go
40 pioneering off and migrate someplace. One possible
41 explanation for that really high bull ratio is that
42 you're seeing immigration from I suppose Unit 18, but
43 someplace where moose are more numerous into the area
44 that's not. So that's an indication that Unit 22 is
45 feeling the effects of that high population to the
46 south and might be colonizing or replenishing Unit 22.

47

48 So I just wanted to say that and let
49 people beat me up. I'm sorry, I have another

50

1 appointment. I have to run off right now.
2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
4 comments, Charlie. It's important. Appreciate it.
5

6 Any further comments from Council. I
7 think Elmer you have something.
8

9 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair. Due to the high bull ratio -- due to the
11 accessibility of that location, because it looks like
12 that portion is pretty mountainous, and for hunters to
13 go on a moose hunt with all the necessary equipment
14 they have to kind of trek or go into the wilderness to
15 do it on their own without four-wheelers or motorized
16 vehicles. The high bull count, is that due to the
17 geographic location being it's so mountainous?
18

19 Because towards the Kigluaik Mountains
20 we see moose out in the foothills. That's pretty far
21 for me to go through, but wouldn't that be one of the
22 reasons the bull ratio is so high, that they're able to
23 survive predators being in that location? One, it's
24 mountainous locations for those animals.
25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Bill.
27

28 MR. DUNKER: Thank you. It's certainly a
29 possibility, Elmer. In some conversations that I've
30 had with local hunters, particularly in the Unalakleet
31 area, for the most part they are limited to the river
32 corridors for access to those hunting areas. I think
33 the folks here in Nome are more familiar with getting
34 out on ridge tops in four-wheelers and there's a lot of
35 access that takes place outside of the river corridors.
36 It's just not the case down there.
37

38 Like I said, they're more or less
39 limited to those river corridors to access some of
40 those hunting areas, so it's certainly possible that
41 that bull:cow ratio may be influenced by harvest
42 patterns in the area. They've seen similar things just
43 on the other side of the divide there in composition
44 surveys on the Huslia River and in some of the portions
45 of like the Nulato River where they have similar access
46 issues. They're pretty much limited to the river
47 corridors and as a result can't get into some of the
48 portions of the more mountainous areas where they tend
49 to see these higher bull:cow ratios as a result.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. My
2 question for you is when was this survey taken? I've
3 seen these kind of concentrations in the fall time
4 during breeding season. I used to fly all over the
5 place, so nothing new to me.
6

7 MR. DUNKER: So generally we try and do fall
8 composition surveys in November. That's when we have
9 snow conditions to provide for good sightability of the
10 animals. This particular one took place I think it was
11 November 29th, 30th and December 1st, so it's certainly
12 those post-rutting aggregations of animals that we're
13 looking for.
14

15 As I mentioned earlier, our intent when
16 we go out and do those things is to spread our effort
17 equally among all the different habitat types so that
18 we do account for some of those animals that are
19 spending that portion of time along the river
20 corridors.
21

22 Generally speaking, we find, like
23 you're saying, the large groups of bulls with cows up
24 in the headwaters of all the associated tributaries and
25 then we'll tend to find single cows or cows with calves
26 along the river corridors. So we were very cognizant
27 of that and made sure that we spread our effort out
28 relative to the available habitat on the landscape.
29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. That
31 brings to mind that these animals are moving up high in
32 these areas and these headwaters of these tributaries.
33 It's about breeding at that time and they're
34 concentrated. Where did they come from? Fish and Game
35 doesn't have an answer for that obviously. Is it
36 possible that 18 is affecting 22A remainder? It could
37 be, but we don't know. You're still wanting to study
38 that further.
39

40 One of the things I'd remind the
41 Council is that we are about subsistence over
42 everything. That's our charge.
43

44 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.
45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Ted.
47

48 MR. KATCHEAK: I'd like to add to what
49 I said earlier, but I'll go a little bit beyond that.
50

1 We have a problem starting October, November, December
2 when the rivers and canals start -- our main obstacle
3 is going to mainland from St. Michael Island. We're
4 divided by canal as some of you are aware and the canal
5 is pretty wide. Maybe two, three hundred feet wide.
6 So during the time when we want to go out and harvest
7 moose is those times.

8
9 So if there was a way to build a bridge
10 from St. Michael Island to mainland, that would be
11 nice. We have poor people. We live in sort of semi-
12 poverty. Our problem is unique and it's almost like
13 living in Savoonga and Gambell, I guess, but that's how
14 things are. Our climate is changing. I think the
15 result is like somebody said, you need 18 moose
16 population growing so big.

17
18 Like someone said, these male they
19 survive. The female and calf are very vulnerable,
20 especially the calf, so we would have a lot of
21 mortality like in the past probably that our moose
22 populations were low, but now we've started to see and
23 hunt moose.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

28
29 Is there anybody online.

30
31 MR. KIRK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk.
32 I'd just like to make one more comment. I sure would
33 like to extend our moose season because, as you're
34 aware, this year we weren't able to harvest moose
35 because of no snow on the ground and no way to get up
36 to the mountains because of our river drainages. Now
37 that we have snow on the ground, we can't harvest moose
38 because it's closed and if we do harvest moose, we're
39 going to end up in court.

40
41 That's the reason why I want to extend
42 our moose season from December to March 31st because
43 right now it's accessible and we can't harvest it.
44 When it was harvesting time, we couldn't get it because
45 there was no accessibility. We didn't have enough snow
46 on the ground and it's a long ways to travel and we
47 couldn't cross the rivers. That's my concern.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I
2 think we have the room to do that as a Council or
3 individuals can do that or submit proposals at this
4 time also for that extension that you're requesting.

5
6 What I need to know is if there's
7 anybody else that has comment on 17-01 here on the
8 Council.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't sound like
13 anybody on the phone has any more. Bill and Megan, I
14 think we've got that one run down. Do you have another
15 one, something else to speak to, Megan?

16
17 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just
18 to clarify, we do need action on the Closure Review 15-
19 09 as well as the Special Action 17-01.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Just so the Council understands, after you take action
25 on those two proposals the Chair is going to open up
26 the floor to make proposals. So at that time Mr.
27 Katcheak you can propose to extend the moose hunting
28 season into March as you've been discussing.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. KATCHEAK: Last day of March is
33 probably 31st.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm trying to think
36 of how we're going to handle this. We've got two
37 actions, so we need two motions. We're going to
38 separate them. So at this time what the Federal
39 Subsistence Board is recommending is that they oppose
40 any changes for this Wildlife Closure 15-09A, B and C.
41 So I'm asking for a motion on -- a friendly motion.

42
43 Go ahead, Karen.

44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pardon me. Mr. Chair,
46 the proponent of Wildlife Special Action 17-01 is in
47 the room and would like to testify. Mr. Kronberger,
48 you're welcome to come up to the table and testify.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sir, you have the
4 floor.

5
6 MR. KRONBERGER: Through the Chair.
7 Sorry. The flight got cancelled yesterday and I
8 couldn't make it and stuff. So I apologize that I
9 wasn't here sooner.

10
11 I did propose Special Action 17-01.
12 One clarification. I believe my special action was
13 just for it to be open for September 1st through
14 September 30th. That was all I was requesting in that
15 special action.

16
17 I'm a registered guide. I operate out
18 of Unalakleet. I've been there for over 10 years.
19 Also I'm a registered guide in the northern part of
20 Unit 18. So I'm in the southern part of 22 and the
21 northern part of 18. So I am on the ground seeing the
22 moose going back and forth between 18 and the remainder
23 of 22A. The moose don't know where the boundary is at.
24 It's the rolling hills. It's easy. There's lots of
25 passes.

26
27 So we're also out there spring grizzly
28 bear hunting, so we're taking inventory of what we're
29 seeing during the spring in 22A and 18. The moose
30 population correlates from all of our observations out
31 there much closer to Unit 18 than it does to what is
32 being reporting in the central part of 22A. So we
33 don't see any moose population difference between the
34 remainder of 22A and Unit 18. Unit 18 has got one of
35 the highest populations in the state. It's got a two
36 moose limit for residents and then you go over the
37 ridge and you have the same population density and it's
38 closed.

39
40 We've been out there taking inventory
41 and keeping track. We have lots of cows that have
42 twins. Like Mr. Dunker had mentioned, there's a high
43 bull:cow ratio. My proposal is so we could allow for
44 guides that have been operating in that area. That is
45 a varied load area. We've heard testimony it's not
46 easy to access. We're doing it by Super Cub and doing
47 some by backpack. We're not using four-wheelers, we're
48 not using motorized vehicles. Like I heard mention, it
49 is mountainous. So we're able to harvest moose any

50

1 we're not coming across or encountering any subsistence
2 users while we're out there in the field.

3
4 Another thing is we are -- you know, my
5 clients that show up are -- the contract allows them to
6 take the backstraps and tenderloins home along with the
7 horns and cape, but we're donating all of the meat to
8 the village of Unalakleet. I've already started
9 conversations with Ravn to try to get some of that --
10 when there's space available, to try to get some of the
11 moose quarters to be transported to other places.
12 Maybe Shaktoolik, maybe Stebbins/St. Michael. Wherever
13 we see a need.
14 So we're making sure that the moose in the area, very
15 little of that is leaving the area.

16
17 Along with that we've been harvesting
18 grizzly bears at a high rate. We also operate in the
19 northern part of 22A and the grizzly bear harvest has
20 been -- we've been putting a hurt on them and I think
21 that is having some effect on the moose calves and the
22 population rebound. I would hope that you guys would
23 take that into account. We're trying to do our part to
24 help the moose population come back.

25
26 Also one thing, I know you guys are
27 about subsistence. I think if the guides in the area
28 and the local villagers could work together, like I
29 said, with the meat. Also a lot of our clients are
30 participating in other subsistence activities that
31 benefits the local villagers. A lot of handicrafts
32 that are made, mittens, gloves, hats, baskets, ivory,
33 is being purchased because we're able to have those for
34 clients that come out there. And they're very
35 respectful of your traditions and what you guys have to
36 offer. That's another thing that I think, as I was
37 reading this, is a real benefit to local communities.

38
39 So I know you guys are about
40 subsistence. I did put in a proposal for the northern
41 part of 22 because we're seeing an increase in moose
42 population there, but we're not seeing it like we are
43 in the remainder of 22A.

44
45 One thing to go with Mr. Dunker's --
46 you know, the matrix that they're using to evaluate the
47 number of moose that are there, 90 percent of that land
48 border that happens in the remainder of 22A is
49 bordering Unit 21 and mostly Unit 18. The habitat and
50

1 the geography, that habitat is much closer related to
2 Unit 18 than it is in the central part of Unit 22.

3
4 So I know we're talking about there
5 being some traveling during the rutting times, but
6 we're seeing a high population of moose in 22A during
7 the spring. Both bulls and cows having calves. So,
8 with that, I would just hope that with the Subsistence
9 Board and with the Native communities that the guides
10 can work together and make it a win/win for everybody.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
13 comments.

14
15 Any comments from Council.

16
17 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

20
21 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Kronberger, we have
22 a reindeer herd I'm sure you're aware of and like you
23 spoke earlier about using handicrafts out of reindeer
24 or moose bones and antlers, that's our competition
25 right there. We're trying to promote the reindeer herd
26 and this talk about competing with our, like you said,
27 culture I wouldn't feel comfortable you promoting or
28 someone to make the handicraft or competing with our
29 reindeer herd handicrafts.

30
31 One of the things I thought is we're
32 not as mobile as you are and, like you said, places you
33 go to that we'd like to go to is a distance away. So
34 it's a really confusing issue when you have a guide
35 coming around because we can qualify to be guides too.
36 We need that money. If you just give us moose, then
37 how do we get money? We have a problem trying to make
38 ends meet while things are happening besides what's
39 going on locally.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

42
43 Leland.

44
45 MR. OYOUNICK: If you're intercepting
46 our moose before they come to us, how do you know? A
47 lot of those folks at home they like to go out and
48 harvest their own and butcher it the way they like to.
49 I'm sure some people need what you're giving to them,

50

1 but I don't. If you intercept the moose way up there
2 before they get to us, then that's a problem.

3

4 MR. KRONBERGER: Through the Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Lance.

7

8 MR. KRONBERGER: Responding to Mr.
9 Katcheak. I think you misunderstood me. Our clients
10 are buying the handicrafts that the Native community is
11 making. We are spending lots of money. Ravn has lots
12 of stuff that's brought down from Shaktoolik, things
13 that are brought in that they're purchasing. I wasn't
14 saying that they're taking things to make handicrafts.
15 I was reiterating that we're purchasing them while
16 we're out there in the villages.

17

18 Mr. Leland, I don't know that -- I'm
19 sure hoping that we're not intercepting the moose that
20 are coming close to you. It's a long ways from the
21 head of the Golsovia River to the Unalakleet River. I
22 don't know that the moose are traveling that far.
23 That's not what I'm seeing. I'm not going to say that
24 they're not.

25

26 What I'm trying to say is that we are
27 trying to benefit the locals and I know in the town of
28 Unalakleet that people we have donated meat to have
29 been very, very respectful and very thankful that we
30 were able to do it because some of those people weren't
31 able to go out and get it on their own. That's why we
32 don't hunt in the central area around the town of
33 Unalakleet. We try to be a lot of places that are a
34 long ways from town.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I'm going
37 to ask Megan to reiterate what the OSM has proposed so
38 people are fresh with that.

39

40 MS. KLOSTERMAN: I just want to clarify
41 that you want me to go over the OSM preliminary
42 conclusion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please.

45

46 MS. KLOSTERMAN: The OSM preliminary
47 conclusion is to oppose Wildlife Special Action 17-01
48 due to a lack of evidence that the population continues
49 to grow.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

2

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. One more
4 comment. We'd like to continue our hunts, but like you
5 said these are a distance away, they're remote. I've
6 hunted moose in the past all the way to Golsovia, to
7 Otter Creek. You probably know where they are. If we
8 can't find an animal, we go distant. Like you said,
9 it's remote and mountainous. When you bring that up
10 that you go out to remote areas, then I've been there.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

15

16 Any further comment.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. At this time
21 I'm going to ask for about a 10-minute recess. We've
22 been here for about an hour now. Before we take any
23 action on this.

24

25 Grab your coffee.

26

27 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

30

31 MR. KIRK: This is for the guide.
32 You're guiding hunters into the remainder of 22A and
33 harvesting moose. Can you have some of that moose
34 delivered to St. Michael and Stebbins for our
35 subsistence use because our accessibility is real hard
36 to get moose sometimes especially during our open
37 season. The tussocks up in the mountains are pretty
38 rough for four-wheelers, so it's pretty hard for us
39 residents of St. Michael and Stebbins to harvest moose.
40 We'd surely appreciate it if the guide can make sure
41 that we get some of that moose that they're harvesting.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Ron. I think
46 there's a lot of land in here that's State land also,
47 correct?

48

49 MR. KRONBERGER: Correct. It's

50

1 checkerboard State selected, so that's where we are
2 conducting our hunts right now. It's a little bit
3 problematic because we've got to be paying attention
4 not to drainages or rivers, we've got to be paying
5 attention to a GPS line.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
8 clarification. At this time I am going to say a 10-
9 minute recess. I don't think there's anybody else on
10 the line there that has anything to add at this point.
11 It is 18 after.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (On record)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd like to call the
18 meeting back to order. It's 10:53. Our 10-minute
19 break. They're made out of elastic in Nome, Alaska.
20 We can stretch them a little bit here and there.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All the Council
25 Members are here. We've got people online. Ron, are
26 you online?

27
28 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm online.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did Fred get online?
31 I think Fred was trying to fly in this morning.

32
33 MR. GRAY: I was on the same plane.

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: He's here? You were
35 on the same plane?

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. For the order
40 of things we're going to take up the special action WSA
41 17-01. At this time the wording for the motion is to
42 take action on Wildlife Special Action Request WSA 17-
43 01 submitted by Lance Kronberger of Eagle River. He's
44 requesting Federal public lands closure in the Unit 22A
45 remainder moose hunt area be rescinded September 1st
46 through September 30, 2017 to coincide with the State's
47 non-resident moose season.

48
49 At this time I'm asking for a friendly
50

1 motion to support.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I so move for discussion.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

6

7 MR. AHMASUK: I second.

8

9 MR. SEETOT: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Now we're in

12 discussion. Mr. Gray.

13

14 MR. GRAY: I'm sorry for showing up
15 late. I've been trying to get here from Anchorage for
16 -- they say third time's a charm. This is the third
17 jet I got on.

18

19 Anyway, I tried to fill myself in and I
20 understand a little bit about what's going on and so on
21 and so forth. I just want to make it real clear that
22 the reason I'm sitting at this table is representing
23 subsistence. You know, if other factors can be brought
24 into that world, so be it, but subsistence is number
25 one.

26

27 I have a couple of concerns. One
28 concern, we really don't have a number of animals in
29 this area that we're talking about. I guess you're the
30 guide, are you? I had talked to you a little bit about
31 it. I talked some to Bill about what's going on and
32 what can be done in the future on this.

33

34 Again, my concern is where are our
35 Native people are at in this scenario at this time. I
36 looked up the numbers for people taking moose out of
37 that area for so many years and our local people,
38 according to the State and the Feds, they're not taking
39 animals out of there and I cannot believe that. I
40 lived in White Mountain and if there's 10 animals to be
41 shot, those animals got shot.

42

43 I just can't believe that four animals
44 are coming out to two or three villages a year. I
45 think there's something wrong with the numbers. I would
46 like to see the State and the Feds work together to get
47 a better handle on how many animals are actually being
48 shot in this area.

49

50

1 This proposal is coming into this area
2 in my mind without a clear understanding of how many
3 animals are in there. They just surveyed the
4 Unalakleet area and they've got a good idea what's
5 going on in Unalakleet, but we really don't have an
6 idea what's going on in this, what do you call it,
7 area.

8
9 Again, I would like to see Fish and
10 Game and the Federal people work together to look at
11 numbers and actually get a good handle on numbers and
12 recruitment and those things. If we're going to change
13 our game and change how we offer hunting and so on, we
14 need to do it on good data. We can't do it on just
15 something that's picked out of the sky.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. I'm
18 going to ask Nikki to present something there that just
19 came up on numbers.

20
21 MS. BRAEM: Thanks. Hi, Tom. Speaking
22 to the question about level of local harvest out of St.
23 Michael and Stebbins, you missed yesterday, so I'm
24 actually now here with the National Park Service in
25 Nome, but having worked for the State I have all that
26 community harvest data kind of in my head or at my
27 fingertips.

28
29 In addition to some of the harvests
30 that they mentioned, local harvest estimates of
31 harvest, not the harvest reporting system, but the
32 community harvest estimates, which are probably
33 familiar with us talking about in other venues.

34
35 Kawarek did some community harvest
36 studies back mid 2000s, I think 2005-6 and St. Michael
37 they estimated 17 moose in that 12-month period and in
38 Stebbins they estimated in the same 12-month period 26
39 moose. There's also some unpublished data from the
40 State side of things, which will be published
41 presumably in the next six months, where the Division
42 of Subsistence estimated -- and this is a preliminary
43 estimate, I'll caution you there, of 20 moose in 2013.
44 That would be by the community of Stebbins.

45
46 I don't have the harvest location
47 information off the top of my head or in my back
48 pocket, so I can't tell you where those moose were
49 taken. Though I think if you look at the Kawarek
50

1 report at some point you could probably figure that
2 out. I think they did some location stuff.

3
4 So I just wanted to make you aware
5 there is more stuff available. It just wasn't online
6 and available. That's all I have to say about that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nikki.
9 What that tells me is there more hunting pressure
10 locally and they are accessing.

11
12 Tommy.

13
14 MR. GRAY: Yeah. Again, I urge Bill
15 and -- I forgot your name, young lady.

16
17 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Megan.

18
19 MR. GRAY: Megan. I urge you guys to
20 do -- you know, go to your bosses or whoever. I don't
21 want to see a crash in animals. I mean if we've got a
22 healthy resource -- if I was a guide sitting in the
23 audience, I would be saying, ah, things are going bad,
24 plan two, and I would go somewhere else to address this
25 issue.

26
27 My concern again is we all had a crash
28 on the Seward Peninsula. I mean we went from 8,000
29 animals to a couple thousand animals and for what? You
30 know, why? There was no need for it. Just looking at
31 what she just said, there's 43 animals in the past
32 that's been taken. I can't believe that today there
33 isn't 43 animals being taken. To me it doesn't sound
34 right.

35
36 So I think the harvest is a whole lot
37 higher than -- I heard 28 animals in this general area
38 the remainder can be taken. If there's 43 animals
39 being taken in the mid 2000s, I personally can't
40 believe that the people aren't still taking those kind
41 of numbers.

42
43 Somehow I urge both of you guys, the
44 Feds and the State, to work together to get those
45 numbers because I'm sure this issue isn't going to die
46 here today.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
49 Nikki, thank you for your input. Council, are there
50

1 any other Council Members here that wish to jump into
2 the discussion here.

3

4 Ron, you're online.

5

6 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd like to
7 talk numbers, like Nikki just mentioned. The harvest
8 amount of numbers that we get in our area is not what
9 we normally get in the remainder of 22A. Now those
10 numbers you're getting are true, but they're not
11 harvested from 22A. When 22A season closes and Unit 18
12 opens, we go down to Unit 18, purchase a permit and
13 harvest moose from Unit 18.

14

15 That's where that big number comes from
16 saying that Stebbins and St. Michael are harvesting 43
17 moose. Most of it comes from Unit 18 because we don't
18 see that abundance of moose in our area. Our
19 accessibility is limited to harvesting moose because
20 it's hard for us, like I stated earlier, to take a
21 four-wheeler and ride over those tussocks, which are
22 pretty big up there.

23

24 A lot of times we go out and try to
25 harvest moose in September and it closes and we never
26 harvest any, so what we do is we try and save money for
27 gas and go down to Unit 22A, purchase a permit down
28 there and then harvest our moose from that area. We
29 come up here and bring it home and that's where the
30 figures come from. So there's a misunderstanding on
31 the bigger amount of how much moose is harvested in our
32 area between Stebbins and St. Michael.

33

34 That's all I have to say, Mr. Chair.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I'd
39 entertain any other Council Members' comments,
40 concerns.

41

42 Brandon.

43

44 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Hearing the concerns from the residents of the area and
46 it's getting harder and harder, the cost of living is
47 going up and up all the time, they're having a harder
48 and harder time just trying to harvest moose. The
49 harvest data specifically for 22A remainder is showing

50

1 that the local resident harvest has been declining, yet
2 the non-resident harvest is increasing.

3
4 Just like Mr. Gray, for me subsistence
5 is first, yet if we -- in my mind, if we approve this,
6 we're taking away from the tables from the residents of
7 that region. So, myself, I can't support this.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brandon.

10
11 Any other comments from Council.

12
13 MR. KIRK: Just one more comment, Mr.
14 Chair. Ron Kirk again. I support Brandon's comment
15 there because we don't have -- like I keep saying, we
16 don't have the accessibility to harvest moose to put on
17 our tables, whereas the people that are coming have
18 accessibility and we don't, so I don't support this
19 either.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

24
25 Tom, go ahead.

26
27 MR. GRAY: Okay. One thing that I want
28 to make real clear is all my life I've been -- not all
29 my life, but I used to own a reindeer herd and I've sat
30 on all these committees. When we talk about a resource
31 and Fish and Game comes in the door and says there's
32 100 moose available and we can maintain that forever, I
33 think it's up to the locals to take advantage of that.

34
35
36 If the locals aren't going to take
37 advantage of it, then the guides are going to come in
38 and -- I, myself, am a guide and I fully support the
39 locals. I lived in the village for 30 years. I've
40 spent my whole life here. Nome is a big village. I
41 think locals should have first opportunity. But if
42 locals don't take advantage of it, I will vote to
43 support the guides. And I am a guide, but it's locals
44 first. I really think that our neighbors and our
45 people need to have the first advantage at this.

46
47 Anyway, I just wanted to make that
48 clear.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

2
3 It looks like Mr. Fred Eningowuk just
4 made it in.

5
6 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I would like
7 to comment.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

10
11 I recognize you, Fred.

12
13 MR. KATCHEAK: I would oppose this
14 proposal and a lot of it is due to our climate and late
15 freezing. Like I heard Tom mention about reindeer, we
16 have a reindeer herd owned by Stebbins, St. Michael and
17 myself. So at the same time when the canal freezes and
18 it's safe to go across, that's the only time we've been
19 able to see the herd, round up the reindeer herd and
20 see more moose.

21
22 Our hunters have been out hunting, but
23 it's always due to our weather changing. Early freeze-
24 ups and the thickness of ice, that's something we're
25 afraid of if it's gray and not very safe to go across.
26 That thing is, like I said earlier, one, two, 300 feet
27 wide in the canal.

28
29 So we have limited resource. A lot of
30 the equipment that we use today both Stebbins/St.
31 Michael are 10, 20 years old. You can't keep those
32 things in that condition, especially when you have
33 saltwater and a lot of corrosion and a lot of equipment
34 and the cost of gas. We're paying \$6 a gallon. I
35 don't know if that's what you're used to, but we're
36 used to it, \$6 or
37 \$7 a gallon. So for other people that have equipment
38 and access to go out, they're lucky. I wish we had
39 those things like they can just go out there and just
40 do whatever they want.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. I
45 didn't know if you got Fred. Okay, he's recognized.

46
47 Are there any other comments, Council.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So my.....

2
3 MR. GRAY: Question.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was going to make a
6 comment.

7
8 MR. GRAY: I was just making sure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I've heard Tommy's
11 comments there and understand full well what he's
12 talking about. If there's not enough local
13 utilization, that he's going to advocate otherwise. I,
14 like Tommy, have hunted all my life here too and my
15 thing is I'm sitting at this Council because of
16 subsistence. As he said and others here at the table,
17 subsistence comes first.

18
19 So I haven't heard enough up-to-date
20 data to make a decision on this, so I'm going to vote
21 to oppose it. Now I think I have somebody over here on
22 the microphone that wants to bring something.

23
24 MR. GRAY: No. I was going to end the
25 discussion and make you vote on it.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy called for the
30 question. At this time I'm going to ask for a vote.
31 All those in favor of supporting Special Action 17-01
32 say aye.

33
34 (No aye votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
37 sign.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion fails. So we
42 move on to 15-09.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Louis, can I?

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy.

47
48 MR. GRAY: I just want to urge the
49 State and the Feds -- you've kind of heard our
50

1 discussion. We need more information in that area. I
2 would like to see you guys work together and maybe with
3 subsistence or Kawerak or somebody to get realistic
4 numbers. I mean when we talk about four animals versus
5 40-some animals in subsistence, that's a huge
6 difference. We can't have that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Like
9 I said, the lack of data, that's where I do my -- I've
10 got to have information to make informed decisions.
11 Down the line, if this was to come up again and we had
12 more data that would be consistent with what you're
13 saying, Mr. Kronberger.....

14
15 MR. KRONBERGER: It's hard to get data
16 with the budget.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. We're trying to
19 make these people do their job so we can do our job.

20
21 MR. KRONBERGER: Right.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Best information is
24 best decision. So thank you for your approach to the
25 table for us. Thanks.

26
27 Megan, can you speak to this closure so
28 that Fred can kind of catch up here a little bit. I
29 want him to be comfortable when he makes his decision.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So
34 the closure review 15-09 is just reviewing the
35 current closure that's in place in 22A. There are
36 closures in place in all of the hunt areas in 22A.
37 Currently in the North Unit of 22A Federal public lands
38 are closed to moose harvest except by residents of Unit
39 22A. In Central Unit 22A, Federal public lands are
40 closed to moose harvest except by residents of
41 Unalakleet and Unit 22A remainder, which is the
42 southernmost portion of 22A. Federal public lands are
43 closed to moose harvest except by residents of Unit
44 22A.

45
46 So the Council can choose to maintain
47 the status quo, which would just leave all these
48 closures in place, or they can choose to do away with
49 the closures or they can choose to modify the closures,
50

1 which would both take proposals being turned in to do
2 so.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy, go ahead.

7

8 MR. GRAY: I make a motion to leave
9 things status quo.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

12

13 MR. OYOUMICK: I second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second for discussion.

16

17 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

18

19 MR. KIRK: Question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
22 called. All those in favor of status quo say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
27 sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
32 passes. Where does that bring us to.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 The next item the Council was going to discuss were
36 proposals for the call for proposals for the wildlife
37 cycle to the Federal Subsistence Board. There were a
38 few members that talked about extending moose seasons
39 and I believe Brandon has an issue he would
40 like to bring to the table.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have the floor,
45 Brandon.

46

47 MR. AHMASUK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
48 get a proposal going to align the Federal and State
49 seasons bag limits for brown bear in 22C and 22B so

50

1 that the 22C would be to align the spring date with the
2 -- no, no. The new State regulation for next spring.
3 So it would be April 1st to May 31st. But then for 22B
4 to align the one bear -- delete the one bear every year
5 and bring it to two bear every year. That way there's
6 no confusion among user groups.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Now what we
9 need to do is we need to word that motion if we're
10 going to take action on it.

11
12 Tommy.

13
14 MR. GRAY: Okay. And I don't know
15 enough about the Federal laws. When they went to two
16 bears a year in 22B, when that takes effect, those
17 bears shot in 22B can be sold. I think we need to look
18 at our paperwork or whatever it is and be advised, can
19 we sell animals, can we sell skins, claws? What can we
20 sell? What can we do and how is this going to impact
21 what's in place today versus what's going to be in
22 place in the future.

23
24 The dates I really don't care about.
25 The dates I'm good with. I do have a problem with two
26 bears a year and I'd vote against that. But I do know
27 there's other issues that we need to understand before
28 it actually is voted on.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

31
32 Megan, do you have something to offer.

33
34 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yeah. Through the
35 Chair. If I understand correctly, under Federal
36 regulations bear parts can only be sold if they are
37 turned into handicrafts. So you cannot just sell a
38 hide straight up.

39
40 So it would have to be turned into a
41 craft, yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good question, Mr.
44 Gray. Megan. I'm going to ask for a little time here
45 on the sideline to figure out what we're going to do or
46 are we going to just.....

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's up to you.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm the Chairman. I
2 can do what I want.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What I'm going to do
7 is I am going to ask for five minutes so we can shuffle
8 papers here to make sense out of this. I don't want to
9 do anything we're not supposed to do.

10
11 Thank you. Five minutes.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (On record)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm going to call the
18 meeting back to order. We've got proposals worded.
19 We're going to have two
20 proposals separate for 22B and 22C. I'm going to
21 entertain a motion to align the brown bear harvest
22 limit in Fed regulations to match State regulations.

23
24 Is there a motion.

25
26 MR. ENINGOWUK: That's his proposal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We've got to
29 get the dates in there.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Brandon Ahmasuk,
34 it's your proposal.

35
36 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 think we have it all squared away. I'd like to make a
38 motion to align the brown bear harvest limit in Federal
39 regs to match State regs from one bear a year to two
40 bear a year August 1st to May 31st in 22B.

41
42 MR. GRAY: I'll second that for
43 discussion.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second for discussion.
46
47 Tommy.

48
49 MR. GRAY: And I would like to say my
50

1 piece. I don't agree with the two bears a year and I'm
2 going to vote against it. I feel the population is
3 going down and the bear population is getting blamed
4 for a lot of wolf predatory actions. Anyway, I really
5 think the population is dropping already and we're kind
6 of jumping the gun here I feel.

7

8

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

9

10

Brandon.

11

12

MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14

Megan, I don't know if -- it is for residents only, but
I don't know if I have to mention it in the proposal.

15

16

MR. GRAY: You said align regulations.

17

18

MR. AHMASUK: Okay.

19

20

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any other

21

discussion on the motion.

22

23

MR. SEETOT: Is that 22D?

24

25

CHAIRMAN GREEN: 22B.

26

27

MR. SEETOT: B? Okay.

28

29

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Not D, B. Anybody

30

online. Ron.

31

32

MR. KIRK: I support this motion

33

34

because we're having problems with fish up in that
area. Like one of the elders in Nome said a long time
ago, Joe Kachorek said that the elders a long time ago
when he was young the elders back then they killed a
bear so the fish can repopulate. I believe if we do
kill some of the bears, our fish will repopulate in
that area, so I support this motion.

39

40

41

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. At

42

43

this time I'm going to ask for a vote unless there's

44

45

Mr. Gray.

46

47

MR. GRAY: The only point that I wanted

48

49

to make sure that everybody understood was if you're
hunting under State regulations and shoot a bear on

50

1 Federal lands, you abide by the State regulations. So
2 for example if you shoot a bear on Federal lands and
3 you decide to go sell that skin, you can sell it under
4 State regulations.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Providing the Federal
7 lands are open at the same time.

8
9 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There we go. Bill,
12 we're good.

13
14 MR. DUNKER: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any more discussion on
17 this motion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. GRAY: Question

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
24 the motion say aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
29 sign.

30
31 MR. GRAY: Here I am. Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy. Motion passes
34 with one against.
35 So now, Brandon, you have another motion.

36
37 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 The second proposal is to align the brown bear spring
39 date in 22C to match the Federal with the State
40 regulations in 22C of April 1st to May 31st.

41
42 MR. GRAY: I second that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

45
46 Is there any discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron, no discussion?
2
3 MR. KIRK: No.
4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
6
7 All those in favor of the motion say
8 aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
13 sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
18 passes. On to fair weather and following seas and all
19 that. What are we doing next?
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 At this point we could invite Mr. Katcheak if he wanted
23 to extend the moose hunting season. He discussed that
24 earlier. If he's still interested in putting a
25 proposal forward for the call for wildlife proposals to
26 extend the moose hunting season in 22A, I believe, to
27 March 31st, then you can entertain a motion to do that.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Question.
32 Is that 22A remainder or is that Unit 22A only?
33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Katcheak. I
35 believe you could do either/or. It's your choice.
36
37 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.
38 MR. KATCHEAK: The reason I asked is
39 that we have Leland, who is representing Unalakleet and
40 I wonder if this would affect.
41
42 MR. OYOUMICK: I don't know if we have
43 a winter hunt. Once our quota is reached, I think the
44 season is done for the whole year until the next year.
45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron, do you have a
47 comment.
48
49 MR. KIRK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd like
50

1 to go ahead and entertain a motion to extend the moose
2 season to the end of March from December to end of
3 March 31st for Unit 22A, which includes Unalakleet and
4 the remainder of 22A. I so move.

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

7

8

MR. KATCHEAK: Second.

9

10

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any discussion.

11

12

MR. GRAY: I do, Louis.

13

14

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Tommy.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MR. GRAY: Usually when you talk
proposals and you go forward with things there's some
people behind it other than ourselves at the table. I
guess I'm reaching out to find out has this been
discussed at the IRA Council? Where has this thing
stemmed from and how has it grown?

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

I'd love to see the local people behind
it, but if it's just us at the table making that
decision, I'm a little bit edgy. You know, Unalakleet
went through a process of shutting their moose hunting
down so it could grow and they shut it down for years
and now they've got it back.

30

31

32

Are they ready to step up and open it
up another two or three months? That's my big question

33

34

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron.

35

36

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

37

38

Go ahead, Ron.

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

MR. KIRK: To answer your question,
Tom, yeah, it's been discussed in our community, both
in Stebbins and St. Michael. We have a hard time
trying to harvest during the open season because of our
climate change. We don't have the accessibility to
cross the river. When we finally get accessibility --
like right now we finally got snow on the ground, which
we didn't have when it was open. We didn't have the
snow on the ground and we couldn't cross the river.

49

50

Now that it's closed we've got

1 accessibility and we can't harvest it because if we try
2 to harvest it we're going to end up going to court and
3 giving up our subsistence food for our table. So
4 that's the reason why we're trying to open this area
5 up.

6
7 If the motion has to fall to where it
8 has to stipulate remainder of 22A, then that's the way
9 I can word it, to have the remainder of 22A extended.
10 If that's how the motion has to read.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Ron.

15
16 Tommy wants to hear from Leland.

17
18 MR. OYOUNICK: What they're doing in
19 Unalakleet is setting a quota. You know that. When
20 they reach it, it shuts down, even the winter hunt. We
21 don't have enough moose there. There's some kids that
22 did a bad thing last spring and killed maybe five or
23 six moose and just left them. They didn't try to bring
24 them home and that's probably going to affect us
25 because of what they did.

26
27 Not everybody is that way at home.
28 Some of them stay within the law. We don't know how
29 much moose there are, but they're high in the hills.
30 We know that because the bears are in the river where
31 they fish are when the water is high. They chase the
32 moose to the hills and that's where they are. I don't
33 know if they do their surveys in the hills or where.

34
35 When you make a moose call in moose
36 season in the river, they come down to the river, so we
37 know they're there. They're just hard to see.

38
39 MR. GRAY: I guess my question to
40 Leland would be are you guys meeting your quota? Do
41 you need a longer season to meet that quota? Are you
42 happy with the season that you have? Are you guys
43 leaving any animals on the table?

44
45 MR. OYOUNICK: When the quota is not
46 before the day -- they set a day. If the quota is not
47 met by that day, then they extend it. As long as the
48 population comes up, we're happy with it. I think it's
49 working.

50

1 MR. GRAY: So would it be okay to leave
2 Unalakleet out of this proposal recommendation and stay
3 status quo where you're at or would you like to see
4 that March 31st?

5
6 MR. OYOUNICK: That's kind of not for
7 me to decide. I'd have to talk to people from home
8 before I gave you an answer. I'm just one from home.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good point.

11
12 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

15
16 MR. KATCHEAK: Tom, we are working
17 under consent, the majority of the people of Stebbins
18 and leaders and St. Michael has discussed this before.
19 Somewhere along the line I heard if the moose that come
20 up and usually bulls travel a distance and if this
21 resolution that was submitted by the game guide
22 earlier, is they would intercept those moose that
23 would go in that Unalakleet area, and so a lot of cow
24 moose we want that, but we need those bulls to keep the
25 population up.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So we've got a
28 motion on the table. The maker of the motion talked
29 about amending the motion to just 22A remainder. I
30 think what I'm going to suggest is that this proposal
31 comes out of individuals. Maybe St. Michael and
32 Stebbins tribal councils could get together and write a
33 proposal and submit it.

34
35 When is the deadline?

36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. At this
38 point there is no deadline due to the limits that we
39 have currently on the Federal Register. We're hoping
40 to get proposals in by the end of April, I believe.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

43
44 MS. KLOSTERMAN: I was just going to
45 say, yeah, the call for proposals hasn't gone out yet.
46 So typically the call for proposals, whenever it goes
47 out, will be open for approximately 45 days, I think it
48 is, but we don't have that yet, so we're not sure when
49 it closes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So
2 if St. Michael's community and Stebbins' community
3 feels strongly about this proposal, maybe that's where
4 it should be taken up and then there could be some
5 communication with Unalakleet because they're part of
6 this area.

7
8 Once it comes to us, then that's when
9 the Council could take action on it. So I think that's
10 the more appropriate way. I'm thankful that Tommy
11 brought that up and Leland's honesty about he's not
12 willing to step up for the whole community without
13 having that conversation. I think that's the best way
14 to handle this.

15
16 I would ask Ted, did you have
17 something?

18
19 MR. KATCHEAK: I don't think I have
20 anymore. My mind is spent.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Would that work for
23 you though?

24
25 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes. We need to consent
26 not just Stebbins, St. Michael, Unalakleet, our
27 neighbors. I didn't know these things would affect
28 them too, the decision we make.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the maker and the
33 second would rescind the motion.

34
35 MR. KATCHEAK: I so move.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron.

38
39 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk. Since
40 I'm the original maker of the motion, I am kind of
41 hesitant, but I will go ahead and rescind my motion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I thank you for that,
44 Ron, and I think that when you take it up at the
45 community level it will have more weight and when it
46 gets back to the Council we'll revisit it and I think
47 if that's how it works out, we'll probably support it
48 wholeheartedly.

49
50

1 With that -- oh, Fred. Yes.

2
3 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. Just
4 wondering, you know, if Stebbins and St. Michael wish
5 to move forward with this and was wondering like in 22E
6 what the caribou, there is a specific line, not the
7 whole Unit 22 is not open for caribou hunting and was
8 wondering if it can be done that way if it can be area
9 specific where it won't interfere with the moose that
10 Unalakleet hunts. I see some rivers on this map, you
11 know. I'm just wondering if it can be a specific area
12 where they can do this proposal.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
15 comment, Fred. I think.....

16
17 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

20
21 MR. KIRK: Yeah, that's the reason why
22 I spoke out earlier to see if I can restrict it to only
23 the remainder of 22A. If it's going to affect
24 Unalakleet, I'd like to open only the remainder of 22A,
25 our area, because we don't have the accessibility that
26 Unalakleet has to harvest our moose. That's my concern
27 there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
30 comments, Ron. And like I said, I think it's better
31 when it comes from the communities. The proposal is
32 written up, introduced and then we will hammer it out
33 at our next meeting under the cycle of things.

34
35 Megan, did you have something to add?

36
37 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I had
38 just a quick comment. This could be more complicated
39 of a proposal to turn in for the entirety of Unit 22A
40 because there is no winter season for the other two
41 portions. There's only winter season for the remainder
42 currently.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
45 clarification, Megan.

46
47 MR. KIRK: I've got one more quick
48 comment.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

2

3 MR. KIRK: Fish and Game is going to
4 get a call today from St. Michael because they're
5 trying to work with Stebbins today to get permission to
6 go harvest a moose because we're having our annual
7 potlatch and we don't have that much meat to put on our
8 table to feed our guests that are coming up from the
9 Yukon. So they are going to get a call today both from
10 St. Michael and from Stebbins to go out there and
11 harvest a moose today.

12

13 That's my comment.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Ron. I think
18 we've pretty well ironed it all out here and I think
19 we're getting right down to the last thing here on the
20 agenda is closing comments.

21

22 So we'll start with Ted.

23

24 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, fellow
25 Council Members and public, agencies. As you see, we
26 have a unique problem that is affecting both the
27 villages, so we are at the mercy of the weather. Like
28 Ron said earlier, the canal, not the river, the canal
29 that is dividing the island to the mainland is frozen.
30 It's got snow and now we can go up to the hills and
31 sometimes mountain to hunt our, in this case, reindeer
32 and moose.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

35

36 Charles.

37

38 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, this fall we had a
39 little problem with our -- we had no snow until the last
40 part of November. It makes it pretty hard for us to go
41 out and get caribou on Koyuk River. You have to go up
42 there and then rivers never freeze and you can't go up
43 there with your four-wheelers because there was no ice
44 on the rivers.

45

46 Another thing what they were catching
47 from that Koyuk River, they were catching mostly wild
48 reindeer and we never get too many this year because
49 some of them caribou line up and went up north the last
50

1 part of November while there was no snow.

2

3 Anyway, moose season last fall wasn't
4 that good. We had a lot of problems getting moose.
5 There was too many wolves in our area last fall and it
6 scares some of those hunters when they go hunting.
7 Those wolves surround them at nighttime and howl all
8 around them. So a lot of predators this fall, bears
9 and wolves.

10

11 But anyway we had -- when the snow
12 finally comes down and the rivers freeze, that was
13 around first part of December. That's when they
14 started to catch caribou partly from Hettick Creek
15 River. Anyway, we didn't have no ice in the bay until
16 the first part of December, so that was kind of hard
17 for people to get beluga last fall.

18

19 Other than that, whenever somebody get
20 moose or caribou they always share them with their
21 people in Elim, the ones that got no four-wheelers or
22 snowmachiners. They always give them meat. But anyway
23 we survived the global warming.

24

25 That's about all I have. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Clarence.

28

29 Mr. Seetot.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: I guess times are
32 changing. Over the past years that we've been here we
33 have seen a lot of changes due to weather or even
34 though we are separated by mountains and rivers and
35 communities, Unit 22D is very big, but we still have
36 the same problems whether we live in Wales or whether
37 we live in Unalakleet. By getting together we learn
38 from each other what needs to be done or what will
39 happen in the future.

40

41 I'd like to thank everybody here
42 especially the staff for bringing us up to date on the
43 issues that are everyday problems for some of our
44 hunters or things we need to look at for the betterment
45 of Unit 22.

46

47 That's all I have.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

2

3

Mr. Leland.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, this is the first time I ever get into something like this. Usually I work with my hands and don't have to decide for nobody. But it's a relatively good learning experience and I'll go for it and I'll try to help these guys and my people out.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.

It's just like playing basketball. You were one of the best at it that I know of. So your addition to this Council is a good one.

Mr. Eningowuk. Welcome to the Vice Chair seat.

MR. ENINGOWUK: I'll take your mic.

Thank you though.

(Laughter)

MR. ENINGOWUK: You know we're going through a climate change and this is the first time in maybe since forever we have open water until January. Strange to hear waves in December. But we're adapting. We are people who adapt to climate change. We adapt to whatever nature throws at us while we're doing our subsistence way of life. We have no other choice but to do that.

Like I stated before, we need to put climate change as an agenda on this RAC here. North of us asked if we want to put that on the table also to the other RAC.

We had late snow this year. I believe we finally got it while I was down at Anchorage. It's been pretty touch trying to hunt caribou until maybe a couple weeks ago. No snow, but we managed to get some caribou. Since I've been gone I believe some of our people are hunting caribou up here even with the declining caribou.

1 I stressed to some of our hunters don't
2 leave any behind. When you hunt, you shoot the one and
3 take it, take all of it and that's our way of life.
4 But sometimes we have no other option but to do that
5 because we find some of those animals are sick. We
6 find their internal organs pussy, green, so
7 traditionally we don't take that kind of animal.

8
9 Otherwise, you know, I thank you for
10 this given opportunity.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.

13
14 Mr. Brandon Ahmasuk.

15
16 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Just like Mr. Oyoumick, this is also my first meeting.
18 I really do enjoy conversing with the other regions,
19 just like the other Council Members here. We have a
20 lot of the same -- you know, we're different areas, but
21 we have a lot of the same concerns.

22
23 Thanks to the Staff agency reports.
24 Thanks for keeping the reigns nice and tight on us,
25 keep us in line.

26
27 I hope I represented well. I hope I
28 served good on my first day -- or second day I should
29 say. Thanks.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brandon.

32
33 Mr. Gray.

34
35 MR. GRAY: Well, sorry I'm late in
36 getting here. You know, it's a changing time. I've
37 sat on all kinds of boards and I've seen all kinds of
38 things and it seems like lately it's been a change in
39 regulations. We're dealing with State regulations,
40 we're dealing with Federal regulations. So I urge all
41 the players to be as educated as you can when you learn
42 or you get involved in something. I'm getting to be an
43 old man and I'm still learning.

44
45 I think all of us sitting at the table
46 we want our people to have the best of the best and I
47 think that's important. I sat in a village for 30
48 years and if I didn't get a moose put in the freezer or
49 reindeer meat or caribou, I was pretty hungry. Our
50

1 resources are kind of deprived right now, so we've got
2 to make good decisions for our people, I guess.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

5

6 Ron, you're on the line.

7

8 MR. KIRK: Yes, I'm on the line. I'd
9 like thank the people that brought all the information
10 to us, Fish and Game, the Staff.

11

12 I'd like to voice my opinion concerning
13 the extension of our moose harvest season here in
14 Stebbins and St. Michael. Two years in a row we
15 haven't been able to harvest moose with the dates we
16 have set for harvesting. The reason being climate
17 change. Last year the ice was too thin. This year we
18 have high water and a lot of the guys that sit on the
19 table RAC there aren't familiar with our area here.

20

21 We have low lands that's right up to
22 ocean level and it's almost 10 miles long from the
23 ocean all the way up to the mountains back there where
24 we go harvest our moose. And this year in December
25 that low land was filled with water. We couldn't cross
26 it with snowmachines. We couldn't get nowhere. We
27 were stuck on our island.

28

29 So by the time the moose season closed
30 we still couldn't get to our moose. And now it's all
31 frozen and it's accessibility and we can't even go
32 harvest it. That's the reason why I wanted to propose
33 to extend our season because of climate change. It's
34 having an effect between the Native Village of St.
35 Michael and Stebbins because of our wetlands.

36

37 A lot of you aren't familiar with our
38 wetlands. We have a real long stretch of wetlands that
39 go from St. Michael Bay River all the way to Point
40 Romanoff. It's all wetlands, it's flat. Once the ocean
41 rises and goes over that land, it's just all water all
42 over and it stays there until it freezes and we cannot
43 cross it with snowmachines or four-wheelers.

44

45 December is really hard for us to
46 harvest moose. That's the reason why I brought it up.
47 Ted and I were trying to bring it up to extend it is
48 because of climate change. We're having difficulty
49 harvesting moose for our subsistence way of life.

50

1 Other than that I enjoyed this meeting.
2 It's been very educational and I hope you've got a
3 better idea of what I just said of why we want to
4 extend our moose harvest and season because we don't
5 have accessibility.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
10 Appreciate your comment.

11
12 I guess that leaves mine. According to
13 Jim Magdanz, people have been hunting and fishing on
14 the Seward Peninsula for a good 12,000 years. So
15 that's quite a track record.

16
17 It's a pleasure of mine to be a part of
18 this process. I enjoy the roundtable discussions here
19 we have with people from different areas that puts this
20 stuff together.

21
22 I do feel for what Ron is talking about
23 is important and I think there will be an avenue for
24 that, Ron, for you and Ted to take that up and get that
25 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board to where we
26 can act on it when the proposal is up for a vote.

27
28 I'd like to thank the Staff for doing
29 their job and I'd like to thank the public members. I
30 appreciated Charlie coming. He's the chairman of the
31 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee. I served on
32 that for 13 years and part of it was as the vice chair
33 when Charlie was working for the Department. So I
34 appreciate his attendance.

35
36 I'd like to thank the young lady that
37 was here for the Fisheries Division, Jennifer Bell.
38 That was a first. We've been asking for somebody from
39 that Division to take part in our meetings, so very
40 much appreciated. Thank Jim for sending her over if
41 that's the case.

42
43 I think that's just about it. I would
44 like to welcome Leland Oyoumick. I've known him as
45 Book (ph) all my life that I've known him, his
46 nickname. And I'd like to say welcome aboard to
47 Brandon Ahmasuk for his newly appointed seat.

48
49 With that, I'd like to say thank you

50

1 very much for a good meeting.

2

3 Without further adieux, we are
4 adjourned.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 6th day of March at Nome, Alaska;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th
27 day of March 2017.

28
29
30
31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/18
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50